

American undergraduates, 56 percent of Hispanic undergraduates, 48 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander undergraduates, and 57 percent of Native American undergraduates are enrolled in community colleges.

Why do community colleges serve an increasingly vital role to the students in our districts?

For many students, tuition to a 4-year college or university is prohibitively expensive. Community college tuition is at least one-tenth that of 4-year colleges and often maintain transfer relationships with nearby colleges and universities.

For others, financial constraints require students to work long hours at one or more full-time jobs while attending school. Community colleges provide more lenient enrollment requirements that allow students to attend school around their work schedules and attain a degree, albeit in longer than the traditional 4-year time frame.

For still others, community college offers students the ability to obtain technical and vocational training while enrolled in academic courses for credit toward an associate degree.

In short, community colleges offer the flexibility and accessibility that are essential to ensuring that all of our students, not just the ones who are able to attend 4-year colleges and universities, obtain postsecondary educations.

Public community colleges receive 40 percent of their revenue from State funds and 5 percent from Federal funds. Over 37 percent of community college students receive financial aid of some kind.

These funding sources are dependent on the school maintaining its accreditation. It would then make sense that any attempts to revoke accreditation would be highly regulated and easily appealed.

This is not the case in my district. Compton Community College is in grave danger of losing its accreditation. One would think that school officials would have received fair and adequate notice of the deficiencies that may lead to its loss of accreditation. One would think that a thorough due process standard would apply to any attempts to appeal a decision to revoke accreditation. One would think that the community at large would be able to attend a public hearing where the fate of their community treasure would be decided. One would think all of these things, but the fact is that none of these standards apply.

That is why I have introduced a bill that will strengthen the due process available to community colleges nationwide that face threats of accreditation revocation.

Community colleges are community treasures. Accreditation boards should be doing all they can to keep community colleges alive, rather than taking steps to summarily cement their failure. In the event that a determination is made to revoke accreditation, every school in this Nation should have access to a full and fair review of their cases and every member of the community should have the ability to witness and participate in the process. This bill will strengthen those rights.

Electing to close down a community college, which is what loss of accreditation effectively means, is a serious decision and it must be accompanied by serious oversight. That is what this bill will put in place.

CONGRATULATING MIKE POTTER FOR WINNING THE CELFLIX FESTIVAL GRAND PRIZE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young constituent of mine who recently demonstrated his creativity and technological prowess on a very large stage. Mike Potter of Broomfield, Colorado, now a junior at Ithaca College, recently won the Grand Prize in the "Cellflix Festival," a prize that included \$5,000 and a tremendous amount of respect for individual ingenuity and creativity.

The "Cellflix Festival" is a competition that asks participants to submit a short film shot entirely on a cellular telephone camera. Within these constraints, Mike Potter submitted a film called *Cheat*, a charming and short exhibition that celebrates his grandparent's loving relationship. In it, Mike's grandfather quizzes his grandmother on newspaper headlines, offering her a kiss as a prize for each time she correctly guesses whether a headline is true or false. Sometimes, Mike's grandfather confesses at the end, he cheats. Described by one contest judge as "contagious," Mike Potter's creative short shows how much can be accomplished artistically with a limited medium, and one in which most of us are only vaguely aware.

I don't know about all my colleagues, but I have only barely mastered the use of a blackberry and my cell phone is still just a convenient technology for communicating. It never occurred to me until I saw the story about Mike Potter that the device I take for granted could be used as a means of artistic expression.

What's really intriguing about Mike's work is that it shows how young people, better versed in the ways of technology than any previous generation, may be blazing new trails of innovation and creative expression that will have implications for our economy and the entertainment industry.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike Potter on his recent award and in wishing him well in his future endeavors. I certainly look forward to seeing what else he can produce, and I am proud to represent such a creative young person in Congress.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 657, a resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools to our Nation.

I rise today in support of this resolution and in recognition of the teachers, parents, and schools administrations who dedicate themselves to the difficult task of creating a strong learning environment for students in Catholic schools everywhere.

I have dedicated my time in Congress to the issue of education and have worked to try to improve our educational system by supporting such initiatives as the creation of incentives for new teachers and increased funding for pre-school programs.

It is in honor of this same pursuit by the Catholic schools of this Nation that I rise today. These schools are charged with the most important responsibility in our society: Educating our children. The pursuit of excellence in education and opportunities for students in the area of music and the arts put these schools and educators in a class of their own.

The future of the American educational system is tenuous. To quote the former Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank Alan Greenspan in a recent congressional hearing regarding solving the education problem in this country, "if you don't solve it, nothing else is going to matter."

Many thanks to the Catholic school system for all it does to help meet this challenge and I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in working to put the education of our children at the top of our legislative priorities.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HARRY T. MOORE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation celebrates Black History Month, I rise today to pay homage to the life and legacy of Harry T. Moore, a devoted husband, father, educator, and one of the first civil rights martyrs of our time. His tireless efforts and unselfish sacrifice in the name of social justice continues to inspire and empower Americans of all stripes, even now, over fifty years after his death.

Harry Tyson Moore was born in Houston, Florida on November 18, 1905. After his father's death his mother sent her only son to live with his three aunts in Jacksonville, Florida. In the prosperous and intellectual community of Jacksonville, Mr. Moore cultivated his intelligence and excelled. After graduating from Florida Memorial College in 1925, he moved to Cocoa, Florida. He settled in Brevard County teaching fourth grade at the only African-American elementary school in the area.

While there, he went on to meet his future wife, Hariette Vyda Simms. In time, Mr. Moore became principal of the Titusville Colored School, which taught children from the fourth to ninth grade. In March 1928 and September 1930, the Moore's welcomed two daughters into the world. With his family and professional life in place, Mr. Moore began an additional career in political activism.

In 1934, Mr. Moore founded the Brevard County NAACP chapter. In 1937, by working with the Black Florida State Teacher's Association and NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall, he catalyzed a movement to equalize the salaries of Black and White teachers. Although he lost the court battle, he would ultimately win the war. Make no mistake, his actions inspired many others and ultimately, Mr. Moore helped achieve pay parity among teachers of color and their White counterparts.